

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2, 3 and 5 as follows:

1 (Original) An access cell for an integrated circuit having a current pathway disposed therein for routing current through said access cell, said current pathway comprising:

a first current path disposed lengthwise in said access cell;

a second current path disposed lengthwise in said access cell; and

a third current path disposed between said first current path and said second current path, said third current path having a set of three legs;

a first of said legs being disposed generally parallel to said first and said second current paths;

a second of said legs connecting said first current path to said first leg; and,

a third of said legs connecting said first leg to said second current path.

2. (Currently amended) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said first, second and third ~~legs~~ paths are parallel to each other.

3. (Currently amended) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said second and third legs are generally perpendicular to said first and, second and ~~third~~ current paths.

4. (Original) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said first, second and third current paths extend substantially the length of the cell.

5. (Currently amended) The access cell of claim 1 further comprising:

a cut point disposed on said first leg, said cut point designating a region of said first leg at which said first leg ~~may~~can be physically severed; and,

at least one connect point disposed on said first leg, said at least one connect point designating a region of said first leg at which said first leg ~~may~~can be connected to a net.

6. (Original) The access cell of claim 2 wherein said cut point is separated from said connect point by at least a minimum allowable distance, wherein said minimum allowable distance is specified in a set of spacing rules associated with said integrated circuit.

7. (Original) The access cell of claim 1 wherein the first current path is separated from said third current path by at least a minimum allowable distance, wherein said minimum allowable distance is specified in a set of spacing rules associated with said integrated circuit.

8. (Original) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said first current path is disconnected from said second current path by severing said first leg of said third current path.

9. (Original) The access cell of claim 8 wherein said first leg of said third current path comprises a first end at which said first leg is connected to said third leg, and a second end at which said first leg is connected to said second leg and wherein said first leg is severed between said first and second ends to cause first current path to be disconnected from said second current path.

10. (Original) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said first current path is adapted and configured to be connected to a first net, said first net being connectable to said first current path at any location on the first current path, and further wherein said second current path is adapted and configured to be connected to a second net, said second net being connectable to said second current path at any location on the second current path.

11. (Original) The access cell of claim 10 wherein said first leg of said third current path is severable.

12. (Original) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said first leg is adapted and configured to connect to a net, said net being connectable to said

first leg at a connect point, said connect point designating a region of said first leg at which said first leg is connectable to any net.

13. (Original) The access cell of claim 1 wherein said current pathway comprises a wire disposed in a metal layer associated with said integrated circuit.

14-26 (Canceled).

27. (Original) A computer system comprising:
a processor adapted to modify a netlist to cause a set of nets listed in said netlist to be represented as two unique nets, and being further adapted to modify said netlist to include a set of access cells, wherein said access cells are defined as being coupled between different ones of said two unique nets; and,
a programmable medium coupled to said processor for storing said netlist before and after it has been modified.

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 wherein said programmable medium further stores a place and route tool executable by said processor to create a layout.

29. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 wherein said programmable medium further stores a standard cell library.